performance has been introduced in the various industries which have already been set up, because these are the things which are there all along? So in spite of what you have said in the statement, you are losing.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I will take note of what the hon. Member has stated about this, Sir. The main reason is the power cut in almost all the States. We are not in a position to utilize the full installed capacity. This is the position.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: So far as the suspicion that politics has been interfering or perhaps impeding the functioning of the public sector...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member mentioned about the wrong location because of political reasons.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: Our policy is that we have been setting up public sector in areas which have been backward. So it is with a view to providing some support to the development activities, development processes, in those areas, not with a view to any political consideration.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Are you denying that there is political consideration?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: It is always based on techno-economic surveys and also backward level of the region concerned.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know whether one of the factors responsible for this is the lack of operational autonomy of the public sector management? If so, what steps have so far been taken?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: Sir, in recent months—in fact the last two years—we have taken several steps to make the public sector autonomous and also fixed responsibility. Sir, we have earlier had the tenure of the Chief Executive for two years. Now we have made it 5 years. And we have given full autonomy to the Board level management, not only in terms of their tenure but also in terms of investment. Upto Rs. 20 crores investment the Board can decide. But we should remember that autonomy has to go with accountability, and in order to fix accountability we monitor the performance. Targets have been fixed. Action plans have been framed. Therefore, all these steps, I think, have already gone a long way as you can see in terms of performance of the public sector.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that there was a successful effort on the part of the Government to cut down the cost of production. But every year, and this year also, the coal price has been increased. On the basis of that the expenditure is more. So they are forced to increase the prices. There is a contradiction here. If there was a successful attempt on the part of the Government to cut down the prices...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Shifting of LPG cyliner filling stations

*242. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to shift the LPG cylinder filing stations from their present sites in Delhi to some distant and safer places;

(b) if so, the stage at which the said proposal stands at present; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) In order to enable shifting of the existing LPG bottling facilities from

Shakurbasti in Delhi the oil industry is putting up new LPG bottling plants at locations close to Delhi. These will be completed in 1988. Closure of the existing plants at Shakurbasti will be possible after the new plants stabilise in their operations.

**Prices of soft drinks**

*245. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently permitted the manufacturers of cold drinks industry to raise the prices of their products;

(b) if so, what is the extent of rise permitted for Campa cola, Thums Up, Thrill and Limca;

(c) what is the rise in prices affected by the manufacturers for their products; and

(d) what is the price of each bottle of 200 ml. of the different cold drinks in the market?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir. There is no statutory control on the prices of soft drinks.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The prices of soft drinks in the market vary from place too place. Currently, they vary from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3.00 per bottle. The increase in retail price in recent months has been around 50 paise per bottle.

**Annual requirement and production of crude oil**

*246. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production and requirement of crude oil in India and how much oil was imported to meet the country's requirement during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that oil produced in India is costlier than that in other countries; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the cost of production of crude oil in India per barrel and how it compares with the cost of oil imported from outside; and

(d) what is the rate of duty levied on the imported oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The information is as under: —

(In million Tonnes)

| Year | Production of crude oil | Requirement of crude oil | Gross Import of crude oil |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1984-85 | 28.99 | 41.71 | 13.64 |
| 1985-86 | 30.17 | 43.94 | 15.14 |
| 1986-87 (Provisional) | 30.46 | 46.86 | 15.6 |